



How Is the Use of Compost Regulated?¹

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The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has established detailed regulations for the production and use of compost created from waste. These regulations exclude compost obtained from backyard composting and normal farming operations. Compost from these activities is exempt from regulation only if it is used on the property where it was composted, as part of the farming operation. Any compost which is sold must meet the requirements of the regulations.

Any facilities which produce compost commercially must obtain permits from the DEP and comply with detailed DEP regulations. You should contact DEP for more information on these regulations if you intend to commercially market compost generated from your agricultural operations, as they are quite complex.

WHAT WASTES MAY BE COMPOSTED?

- Wastes produced in "Normal farming operations", such as activities used in the production of poultry, livestock or agricultural crops. Normal waste from these operations includes organic waste, manure and wastes derived solely from agricultural crops; and
- normal household food wastes.

WHAT WASTES MAY NOT BE COMPOSTED?

- Any biohazardous waste;
- used oil, hazardous waste or asbestos-containing waste except in the small quantities normally found in household waste.

WHAT USES OF COMPOST ARE PROHIBITED?

Compost from solid waste may never be used as fill material in any body of surface water. Also, DEP regulations prohibit any application of compost that would endanger public health or the environment.

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